

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A release hook for selectively releasing a load supported on the hook, the release hook including comprising:

a hook;

a pad-eye for connecting the hook to a crane; and

a separate an ejector lever for releasing coupled to the hook and configured to release the load from the hook upon actuation of the ejector lever characterized in that actuation of the ejector lever level is provided by a motor and gearing means located adjacent the ejector lever which move the ejector lever upwards towards the pad-eye to eject the load.

2. (Original) A release hook as claimed in claim 1 wherein the motor is remotely operated.

3. (Previously Presented) A release hook as claimed in claim 1 wherein the motor is an electric motor driven from a battery located in the hook.

4. (Currently Amended) A release hook as claimed in [[C]]claim 1, wherein the hook comprises a housing having two interconnected generally 'C' shaped sections with the ejector lever being located at a base of the 'C' between the sections.

5. (Original) A release hook as claimed in claim 4 wherein the sections are bolted together.

6. (Previously Presented) A release hook as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hook includes a catch.

7. (Original) A release hook as claimed in claim 6 wherein the catch comprises an elongate member attached to the ejector lever.

8. (Withdrawn) A release hook as claimed in claim 7 wherein the elongate member and ejector lever are ~~oppositely~~ oppositively opposed on a pivot.

9. (Previously Presented) A release hook as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gearing means comprises a rack and pinion.

10. (Original) A release hook as claimed in claim 9 wherein the pinion is operable via the motor and the rack is located on the ejector lever.

11. (Withdrawn) A release hook as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gearing means comprises a worm ~~worm~~ gear.

12. (Withdrawn) A release hook as claimed in claim 11 wherein the motor turns the worm whose screw thread is located against matching notches on a edge of the ejector lever.

13. (Withdrawn) A release hook as claimed in claim 8 wherein the gearing means comprises a drive sprocket, driven by the motor to rotate the ejector lever.

14. (Withdrawn) A release hook as claimed in claim 13 wherein the gearing means rotates the catch with the ejector lever.

15. (Previously Presented) A release hook as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pad-eye includes an eye-let aperture such that a link may be made between the pad-eye and crane block of a crane.

16. (Previously Presented) A release hook as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pad-eye comprises a shaft including connection means to a crane block.

17. (Withdrawn) A release hook as claimed in claim 16 wherein the connection means is a screw thread on the shaft to match a threaded recess in the crane block.

18. (Previously Presented) A release hook as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pad-eye is swivel mounted on a top of the hook.

19. (Currently Amended) A release hook as claimed in claim 16, wherein the pad-eye includes a base of greater diameter than the shaft, such that the base is retained between the two sections of the housing while remaining rotatable with respect to the housing.

20. (New) A release hook as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ejector lever moves in a linear direction towards the pad-eye.

21. (New) A release hook as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ejector lever includes a sloped surface, and wherein when the ejector lever is moved towards the pad-eye, the sloped surface of the ejector lever bears against the load to release the load from the hook.

22. (New) A release hook as claimed in claim 7, wherein when the ejector lever and catch are in a closed position, the catch blocks the load from being released from the hook, and wherein movement of the ejector lever and catch towards an open position moves the catch to a position where it no longer blocks the load from being released from the hook.

23. (New) A release hook for selectively releasing a load supported on the hook, comprising:

a hook portion that includes a recess and a lip;

an ejector lever which is configured to push a load carried on the hook upward from the recess and over the lip, to thereby release the load from the hook; and

a driver for moving the ejector lever between open and closed positions.

24. (New) A release hook as claimed in claim 23, wherein the driver is configured to move the ejector lever in a linear direction between the closed and open positions.

25. (New) A release hook as claimed in claim 23, wherein the ejector lever includes a sloped surface, and wherein when the ejector lever is moved from the closed position towards the open position, the sloped surface of the ejector lever bears against the load to push the load upward from the recess and over the lip.

26. (New) A release hook as claimed in claim 23, wherein the ejector lever further comprises a catch which blocks the load from being released from the hook when the ejector lever is in the closed position, and which moves to a position where the catch no longer blocks the load from being released from the hook as the ejector lever moves from the closed position towards the open position.

27. (New) A release hook as claimed in claim 23, wherein the driver is configured to rotate the ejector lever between the closed and open positions.